

Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

Published By

THE OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 26, 1945

Vol. 9, No. 3

KISLEV 21, 5706

LIGHT THE CANDLES

The first Chanukah candle should appear in every Jewish home on Thursday evening, November 29th, and on every successive night the candles should be seen in all their simple glory, until all eight are burning gladly on the last night of the festival, Thursday December 6th. The Chanukah candles are lit before the Sabbath candles on Friday.

Since we celebrate Chanukah this year for the first time since the defeat of the Axis powers, Rabbis everywhere have urged their congregants to make the ceremony especially joyous, with all the members of the household joining in the singing of the traditional prayers and melodies.

You may purchase Chanukah candles from the usual sources, and every Synagogue will have some available.

GREAT NEWS FOR CHILDREN

The B'nai B'rith meeting of last November 14th gave formal approval to the recommendation of its camp committee to purchase a beautiful site near Quyon, Quebec, about 28 miles from here, which is to be developed into a summer camp for Ottawa children. During the war years, when shortages of manpower and equipment made it impractical to operate, the B'nai B'rith camp did not function as it had been doing until 1940, but today it is felt that by next summer we can hope for a successful and sorely needed camp to serve Ottawa Jewry. The purchase of the camp site has been widely acclaimed in our city.

SOCIAL EVERY SUNDAY EVENING

After remodelling its community hall, Congregation Adath Jeshurun has decided to turn it over every Sunday evening to the young people in Ottawa for their social purposes. Dancing and refreshments will mark the period from 8.30 to 11.30 p.m. throughout the coming months. The Congregation makes it clear that the hall will be open to young people regardless of whether their families are members or not.

COMMUNITY CENTRE MEETING

All subscribers and would-be subscribers to the Synagogue-Community Centre project will be welcome at a meeting to be held in the Talmud Torah Hall on Monday December 3rd. At that time the co-chairmen, Messrs. B. Alexandor, A. Betcherman and M. Zagerman, will render their report on the conclusion of two years work, and they will describe the situation in regard to the purchase of a site and the need of specific plans for the buildings that are to be erected. Financially, the project has already shown itself to be the most popular of all issues presented to the local community. It is generally believed that the sum already collected (temporarily invested in Victory Bonds) is large enough to justify an initiation of the actual construction, and the key question today is how soon building restrictions will be lifted and building materials will be obtainable.

A very large gathering is expected, and those in charge urge the people to come early enough to find a seat.

RABBI RELEASED BY ARMY

On Dec. 1st Hon. Capt. Oscar Z. Fasman will be released by the Canadian Chaplain Service from his duties as the Jewish Chaplain in the Ottawa area. He was commissioned in Dec. 1941 to look after Jewish personnel in Military District No. 3 and at the Petawawa Military Camp. The Senior Jewish Chaplain, L. A. Weintraub, wrote Rabbi Fasman in this connection:

"I know that the Servicemen who were privileged to have you as their Chaplain were very fond of you and hold you in the highest esteem. On their behalf and on mine, I wish you every success in your future service to G-d Israel and mankind."

HEBREW REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

A service was held under the auspices of the Jewish Community Council at the Adath Jeshurun Synagogue on Sunday morning, November 11th, to pay tribute to the memory of the Ottawa Jewish men who made the supreme sacrifice during the war. Rabbi O. Z. Fasman officiated

CHANUKAH CALENDAR

A variety of events will mark the festivities in Ottawa in connection with the Chanukah holiday. The children of the Ottawa Talmud Torah will present their annual program in the Auditorium on Sunday, December 2nd at 11 a.m., and it is hoped that not only parents but all the friends of the school will be present to encourage the youngsters in their great work. In the west end the children of the Talmud Torah branch will carry through their Chanukah exercises in the Synagogue at 3 p.m. Likewise the pupils in the branch of the Talmud Torah at the James St. Synagogue will appear in their Chanukah program in their Synagogue vestry rooms at 5 p.m. of the same date.

The annual Chanukah program sponsored by the Hadassah Council to raise funds for Youth Aliyah has been called in the form of a large tea to be held in the Talmud Torah Hall Sunday, December 2nd at 8 p.m. No other fund-raising activities are scheduled for that evening, in order to give Youth Aliyah its merited priority. Early in the evening a group of Talmud Torah children who have been coached by Miss Rose Goldberg will stage a Chanukah play, and later in the evening there will be a recent movie of Eretz Israel.

Congregation Machzikei Hadath, Murray St., will hold its annual dinner in the vestry rooms at 6 p.m. Sunday, December 2nd.

Wednesday evening, December 5th, the Agudath Achim Sisterhood will hold a dinner for the members of their congregation in the vestry rooms of the Synagogue.

assisted by Cantor J. Rabin and his choir. The traditional memorial prayers were read.

Members of the local Jewish Community who have been listed as killed, died, or presumed dead in the official casualty lists are the following:

Lawrence Abelson, Mark Abramson, Joseph Ash, Philip Bosloy, Jack Cooper, Leslie Gilbert Dover, Max Gennis, Harold Glatt, Michael Litwack, Philip Miller, Edward Lewis Saslove, Albert Schwartz, Lewis Silver, Sydney Slover, Jack Spevak, Herbert Wolf, Moses Zumar.

The Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

Published Monthly By
THE OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Oscar Z. Fasman, Rabbi

Thomas Sachs,	President.
*S. J. Ritt,	Vice-President
L. Freiman,	Vice-President.
A. Bookman,	Treasurer.
B. Pearl	Hon. Secretary.
Joseph Ages,	Executive Secretary.
*(Deceased)	

Wartime Prices and Trade Board Exemption Certificate
No. 66, dated Feb. 9, 1943.

THE PERMANENT CHANUKAH

For six long, bitter, bloody years we invariably interpreted the message of Chanukah in terms of a world at war. In this seventh year—the Sabbath year, so to speak, when rest is introduced—we gladly return to that view of the holiday that links it with the objectives of a peaceful society. There are elements in our Feast of Lights that cannot grow old. Fresh as the new flames we kindle each evening of the eight is the message the candles bring to our notice. Nobody can ask wearily whether we have to go through with this ceremony all over again, whether last year and the years preceding were not enough.

Why does the Jew never grow tired of Chanukah? Are they right who cynically ascribe our pleasure to the desire of a physically debilitated people to beat haughtily the drum of its ancient military successes? No, Chanukah is not a mechanism for psychological compensation. Its intrinsic value is sufficient warrant for its current importance. It is the occasion for stirring up within ourselves visions of beauty and truth that transform the drab and colourless physical human struggle into epic poetry, that compass man about with the spiritual fervor of an illuminated menorah.

The basic facts of life abide with us. Hunger and pain, joy and blistered hands still enter the diet of man's work. Power continues to be feared, armies make the final settlements of international affairs and lethal weapons, directly or indirectly, decide universal issues. In such circumstances we can never exaggerate the moral instruction of the Lights.

We must continue to proclaim the fallacy of tyranny as the arbiter of civilization, the perennial vitality of a pure heart, the unimpeachable cleanliness of monotheistic worship. At blustering brutes we must point the "ezba elokim", the divine index of humility. To diplomats whose only reason is that of extending the might of their country we must carry the higher reason that emanates from the mind of G-d to bathe all His children in equality.

There ought to be a Chanukah lamp in the parliament of every nation.

COMMISSION UNTO DEATH

Aye, investigate. Climb over the ashes and bones of the five million dead and investigate. Stand at the

side of the mass graves filled with anonymous corpses and investigate. Walk among the silent emblems of the cemeteries in North Africa, count the Jewish Stars, and investigate. Study the sordid existence of Jewish girls from once proud homes in the filthy streets of Shanghai, and investigate. Sit down to eat with the thousands of little children in western Europe who know not where father and mother have been lost, and investigate.

With an investigation the Jewish people of the world are to be repaid for their loyalty to the United Nations, for the sons they have sacrificed, for the martyrdom they have endured, for the patience they have exercised and for the contribution they have made to the furnaces of places like Maidanek and Oswieczim. Mr. Bevin and Mr. Truman have agreed upon a Palestine policy; namely, to appoint a commission to study the condition of the Jews in Europe and the role that Palestine might play in relationship to it. Meanwhile, of course, the children of Israel who continue to languish in the camps of Europe will have the privilege, when they die, to know the exact spot of burial and the exact date of death. One need not rave that the new policy will destroy Jews just as the Nazis formerly did, because the stark truth is not so many are available for death as Hitler had in his control. If some of the survivors should perish for lack of hope, they will have the privilege of knowing that they have given their last measure in behalf of a great scientific principle—investigation. After all, we know that there is a wealth of oil interest in the Near East, but who says that the Jews in Europe are suffering? We know how magnificently the Arab countries upheld the arm of the British Empire—did they not join the United Nations after they saw that Germany had collapsed? Did they not drown out the taste of the champagne they had quaffed to honour Rommel's imminent entry into Alexandria by pouring down a whole cup of English tea? The Jews, on the other hand, were only busy with such trivialities as synthetic rubber (Dr. Weizman) life-saving Penicillin (Dr. Chain) capturing Cologne (General Rose) and desert defence (Brigadier Kisch). Where the contrast is as clear as all that, what right have the Jews to carp against the postponement of their Palestinian hope?

There is an old rule in the Hebrew faith that, in time of danger, one must cut his prayers short and act. Let nobody be surprised, therefore, if the Jews in Europe, especially the younger people among them, will decide to make short the recitation of the Kaddish, will grow weary of standing a long Shmoneh Esre and will move in irresistible waves towards the shores of their land. The commission will not arrive unescorted. A staff of "illegal" immigrants will accompany them to investigate the situation in the Holy Land. And Palestine eagerly awaits the arrival of these immigrants. Let the others go on investigating; let them draw up long columns of statistics; let them make surveys sociological, economic, geographic, in their studious manner; the soil that was given to the Jewish people by the Almighty will respond to none of this. It is soil that is like unto an infant, which will not be at peace until nursed by its own mother. The commission can find out how productive the deserts of Palestine were in the many centuries of Arab occupation, and what civilization has gained in the few decades of Jewish settlement. While the commission takes its time, the Jewish nation will do its own appointing. To this commission unto death we will reply with a commission unto life. We are too tired to die any more, we have no strength for it.

AROUND TOWN

Miss Rose Applebaum succeeds Miss Dora Blushinsky, who leaves for New York next month, as chairman of the Junior Hadassah Committee. . . Mrs. A. Kelman has been named Hon. President of the Agudath Israel Sisterhood, and Mrs. Harry Baker has become president. Messrs. F. Betcherman, M. Lachovitz, E. Slonemsky and J. Hollander have been elected honorary gabbaim of the Ottawa Chevra Kadisha for life. . . Mrs. Herman Roodman is very proud of her latest cultural achievement in Junior Hadassah, a circulating library of interesting Jewish books; the funds were granted by the Hadassah Council, and a librarian will be in charge to help members every Sunday afternoon, 3 to 6 p.m., at the Adath Jeshurun Synagogue. . . Mr. J. R. Fogle, the "Father" of Cong. Bnai Jacob, was tendered a dinner by the men of the congregation before leaving to take up permanent residence in Chicago. . . Stag dinners honoring Michael Greenberg, the president of Cong. Agudath Achim, on the eve of his marriage to Miss Sybil Moscovitch, and Samuel Lepofsky, on the occasion of receiving his K. C., were conceded to be among the major social events of the season. . . Although back in his home in England, Lt.-Cdr Wilfred Samuel has not forgotten his war-time home in Ottawa: not only does he keep up correspondence with the Rabbi, but he sent a generous contribution to the Building Fund of Cong. Agudath Israel.

SHABBO'S CANDLES

November 30th 4.02 P. M.

December 7th 4.00 P. M.

" 14th 4.00 P. M.

" 21st 4.03 P. M.

" 28th 4.07 P. M.

HELP THE MINYAN.

The Synagogue services for Minchah and Maariv occur very early these short days, and it is consequently difficult to get a Minyan. If you can possibly plan your day so as to be present at the Synagogue around 4.00 o'clock in the afternoon, you should do your best to help in this regard. The members of the Hanoar Breakfast Club have been doing their share, but more adults would go far in relieving the Minyan shortage.

THE PLACE FOR GRATITUDE

When a boy who was on active service overseas comes home, the most appropriate place in which to give thanks is the Synagogue. Let him visit his congregation on Shabbos and recite the Gomel benediction. What great joy comes to the heart of parents or wife when they see the returned serviceman called up to the Torah in our house of worship!

The annual meeting of the Vaad Ha'Ir will be held early in December, at which time the reports of committees will be submitted and the election of officers will take place.

If you have not yet sent in your contribution for the Talmud Torah campaign, you should do so immediately. Address mail to Mr. A. Cohen, Secretary, Ottawa Talmud Torah, 171 George Street.

ZIONIST CONVENTION

The annual convention of the Canadian Organization will be held in Toronto, January 26th-28th. Many Ottawa Zionists are expected to attend, and official delegates will be elected at a meeting to be held by the local Zionist Society within the next month.

CHECK YOUR DATES

Organizations that are sponsoring affairs should register the dates with the chairman of the Authorization Committee, Mr. I. Stone, and individuals who are planning for a wedding or Bar Mitzvah in the family are reminded to register the date with the Rabbi. Bar Mitzvah dates have been registered as far in advance as next June, so that it is advisable to consult with the Rabbi before the boy starts studying a given Haftorah, when adjustments can still be made.

HAVE CHILD EXCUSED

In these very short Friday's, parents ought to request of teachers in this Public Schools and collegiates to excuse their children between 3.30-3.45 p.m. to enable them to reach home before Shabbos.

The annual Mizrahi dinner will be held in the Talmud Torah Hall, Sunday night, Jan. 1st. Reserve the date!

YOUR RABBI SAID

To pray by heart does not mean to pray without the use of a prayer-book, for the sincerely religious soul prays by heart even when reading from it. . . Since the war is over, it is necessary that society give up its comparative indifference towards lapses from the strict moral and ethical code. What was looked upon as forgivable during the tension of the critical years ought not be lightly regarded in the time of peace. . . In a democratic society there is room for every kind of political thought except that which claims that there is not room for every type of political thought. . . To work in behalf of his people is not only the duty but the privilege of a Jew. No country of consequence will permit houses of worship to become destroyed; one country tried it in modern times and is become today of no consequence. . . People can live only in one of two ways: either they have the fundamental good things of life or they have the hope of obtaining them; if they have them not and are denied the hope of ever reaching them, they will commit suicide. . . Morally speaking, it seems easier to travel downwards than to climb uphill, but those who choose the more difficult course end on a high place from which they can see the entire countryside and know the proper place of each thing.

CHEVRA ELECTS OFFICERS

The officers who will guide the destiny of the Ottawa Chevra Mishnayeth were elected at the annual meeting of the society in the Congregation Agudath Achim on October 28th; namely:

M. Roodman, Gabbai Rishon, Casriel Cohen, Gabbai Sheni, Leibl Cohen, Gabbai Shelishi and Secretary, L. Petegorsky, Treasurer.

VAAD YESHIBOTH ESTABLISHED

At the recommendation of Mr. I. Stone, Chairman of the Authorization Committee, a Vaad Yeshiboth has been created in Ottawa to supervise the solicitations in behalf of the various seminaries that raise funds in the city, and to further the aims of Yeshibah education here. Rabbi O. Z. Fasman is chairman, Rabbi B Kravetz and Cantor A. Weiss are Vice-chairmen, and Mr. H. Silver is secretary-treasurer. Members of the committee include Cantor J. Rabin, Cantor S. Schreiber, and Messrs. M. Drazin, L. Cohen, J. Gordon, S. Schapira, and M. Palmer.

MAYOR SPEAKS AT CEREMONY

Mayor Stanley Lewis brought a message from the city government to Cong. B'nai Jacob, when it dedicated a marble tablet in honor of its forty-two men on active service during the war.

The impressive ceremony was held in the synagogue on Nov. 18th under the able chairmanship of W/C B. Alexandor. The president of the Vaad Ha'ir, Mr. Thos. Sachs, speaking in behalf of that central body, outlined effectively the contribution made by Ottawa Jewry to the war effort. Mr. A. Bookman, the president of the congregation, expressed appreciation for the part the men played in the victory of Canada, while Capt. H. Hooper, vice-president of the Canadian Legion, reminded the audience of the responsibility to help the returning men to be re-established in civilian life. Rabbi Fasman and Cantor Schreiber conducted the Memorial Service for the three boys who had made the supreme sacrifice. Max Bookman thanked the congregation in the name of the men whose names are inscribed on the tablet. Mr. L. Bosloy and Mr. J. Litwack unveiled the Honor Roll.

The chairman of the arrangements was Mr. B. Strean.

JEWISH BOOK MONTH

November has been proclaimed as Jewish Book Month. The idea is to devote at least one season of the year to an emphasis upon the importance of Jewish books and their acquisition. If you get in touch with the Rabbi he will be glad to help you purchase the books of Jewish interest. If you would be interested in a membership in the Jewish Publication Society, he will be glad to advise you how to proceed.

SHALOM, MISS BLUSHINSKY.

Miss Dora (Dolly) Blushinsky presided at the first cultural meeting of this season conducted by the Junior Hadassah Committee in the King Edward Avenue Synagogue. Rabbi O. Z. Fasman discussed "Chanukah-Laws and Lessons."

Because the evening was the last time Miss Blushinsky would be in the chair before leaving for her new home in New York, Mrs. B. M. Alexandor, president of the Hadassah Council, took the occasion to thank for her excellent leadership. In a similar vein, Mrs. O. Z. Fasman praised her record of building up Junior Hadassah from small beginnings to a very strong and energetic body.

TALMUD TORAH NOTES

Future essayists, artists and poets may be looking back at you from the student paper, Itonenu, on the walls of the T. T. lobby. . . Several boys and girls have won the "Book of Jewish Thoughts" for knowing all the Benschen (Grace after meals) by heart. . . The Saturday morning minyan is well-attended, and the kiddush arranged for by Mr. M. Held is well appreciated. . . Mrs. Kravetz, latest addition to the staff, is making splendid progress with her Beginners' Class. . . They are not our youngest pupils, though; there's the stalwart group, rain or shine, in the Gan Yeladim (Kindergarten) every afternoon at 2.00. . . The Uptown Branch has furnished the most recent members to the M.M.C. (Morning Minyan Club) who are receiving pins for reading prayers every morning.

Are you thinking of a good cause for an investment in charity? The Chapel Fund of the Chevra Kadisha is eminently worthy of consideration. Talk it over with M. N. Drazin.

On Tuesday night, December 4th, we begin saying "tal Umatar" in our prayers.

COURSE IN JEWISH RELIGION

Using M. Friedlander's "The Jewish Religion" as his text, Rabbi O. Z. Fasman is delivering a series of lectures for young people every Monday, from 8.00-9.00 p.m., at the Synagogue, 375 King Edward Avenue. General discussion follows each address, and those who have been coming consider the hour highly informative. All young people are welcome.

RABBI FASMAN GUEST SPEAKER

The Montreal Rabbinical Seminary "Merkaz Hatorah", where three Ottawa Talmud Torah pupils are now pursuing their studies, has invited Rabbi O. Z. Fasman to be the the guest speaker at its Chanukah dinner, scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 4th.

COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Under the chairmanship of Mrs. N. Loeb, the Board of the Council of Jewish Women met on Nov. 22 and voted unanimously to assist Rabbi Rose in his relief work overseas and to sponsor the Jewish Brownie Pack. Plans are proceeding for the Paid-Up Membership affair to be held Sunday evening, Dec. 23rd. Since the membership total is very large, the occasion will be a gala one.

SAD NEWS FROM EUROPE?

Many families receive these days sad news about their dear ones in Europe. Here are a few elementary rules of Judaism in this connection.

1. Whenever a family has decided in its own mind that a loved one is dead, even though no concrete evidence has come, it is generally permissible to name a baby for that person. Call the Rabbi for details.

2. If somebody receives word about the death of father or mother, no matter how many months or years have elapsed, he must rend his garment (Kriyah) and sit low in mourning for an hour.

3. If the same happens in the case of a brother or sister, he need not rend his garment, but he should sit low in mourning for an hour.

4. Where no date of death is known, the date when the news came should be observed as the *yahrzeit*.

BREAKFAST CLUB VERY POPULAR

The Hanoar Study and Breakfast Club, under the direction of Mr. H. Bessin and Mr. Y. Greenberg continues to function as the most popular organization for boys between 13 and 16 in our city. Every Sunday morning at 9.15 between 40 and 50 boys can be found at the Adath Jeshurun Synagogue for their Shachrith services, with their Tefillin and immediately afterwards they adjourn to the Vestry rooms of the congregation for breakfast. Around the tables the cultural, social, athletic and business aspects of the club program are democratically carried through. It is amazing to see how many hidden talents have been discovered in our boys through this agency. Be sure to encourage your sons to come regularly and participate.

CAN YOU SING?

The Ottawa Hebrew Sunday School is in need of a young man or woman who can sing fairly well to teach the children Hebrew and English songs. There is a good pianist to do the accompaniment, and you will be asked to spend 11 to 12 a.m. on Sunday at the Osgoode Public School. Can you help? Phone the Acting Superintendent, Miss Bessie Cardash, at 3-3529.